

# 1999 Field Crops Summary

## GENERAL

Drought was the big factor in the 1999 growing season. Except for wheat and to some extent oats, all of the yields were affected by dry, hot conditions. The 1999 winter wheat crop tied the record yield set in 1998. Oats yields were down some from 1998, while the rest of the crops were damaged by the drought. May 1, 2000, hay stocks were lowest on record due to the drought.

## ALL HAY

All hay area harvested in 1999 totaled 580,000 acres, the same as 1998. Yields for all hay averaged 1.37 tons per acre, down from 1.99 in 1998. Production totaled 794,000 tons, down 31 percent from 1998.

## ALFALFA AND ALFALFA MIXTURES

Alfalfa hay area harvested totaled 50,000 acres in 1999, unchanged from 1998. Alfalfa yields averaged 2.1 tons per acre, down from 3.0 tons in 1998. Production totaled 105,000 tons, down 30 percent from 1998. New seedings of alfalfa in 1999 were estimated at 8,000 acres, the same as 1998 seedings.

## ALL OTHER HAY

All other hay area harvested totaled 530,000 acres in 1999, the same acreage as 1998. Yields averaged 1.3 tons per acre, down 0.6 ton from 1998. Production totaled 689,000 tons, down 32 percent from 1998.

## CORN

Area planted to corn for all purposes in 1999 totaled 60,000 acres, unchanged from the previous year. Harvested area for grain set a new record low of 20,000 acres, down 14,000 acres from 1998. The 1999 average yield of 65.0 bushels per acre was down 15 bushels from 1998. Production was also the lowest on record at 1.3 million bushels, down 52 percent from 1998. Corn for silage area harvested was 35,000 acres in 1999, up 11,000 acres from 1998. Yields averaged 8.5 tons per acre, down 6.5 tons from 1998. Silage production was estimated at 298,000 tons, down 17 percent from 1998. Many producers who would have normally harvested corn for grain, harvested the crop for silage instead to help offset limited feed supplies and production.

## OATS

Oats production in 1999 set a new record low of 96,000 bushels, down 52 percent from 1998. Yields averaged 48.0 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from 1998. Area planted totaled 7,000 acres, up 1,000 acres. Area harvested for grain totaled 2,000 acres, down 2,000 acres from 1998, and set a new record low. Due to program changes, Oats will no longer be estimated.

## WINTER WHEAT

The drought had less affect on the wheat crop due to maturing prior to the onset of the dry weather. The average yield was 57.0 bushels per acre, which tied the record set in 1998. Wheat planted acres totaled 11,000 in 1999, the same as last year. Area harvested for grain totaled 7,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from 1998. Harvested acreage set a new record low. Production was estimated at 399,000, down 13 percent from 456,000 bushels in 1998.

## TOBACCO

Burley tobacco area harvested totaled 1,600 acres in 1999. Yields averaged only 1,350 pounds per acre due to drought. Production totaled 2.16 million pounds in 1999. These estimates were unchanged from the 1998 final numbers, which were also down due to excess moisture and disease.